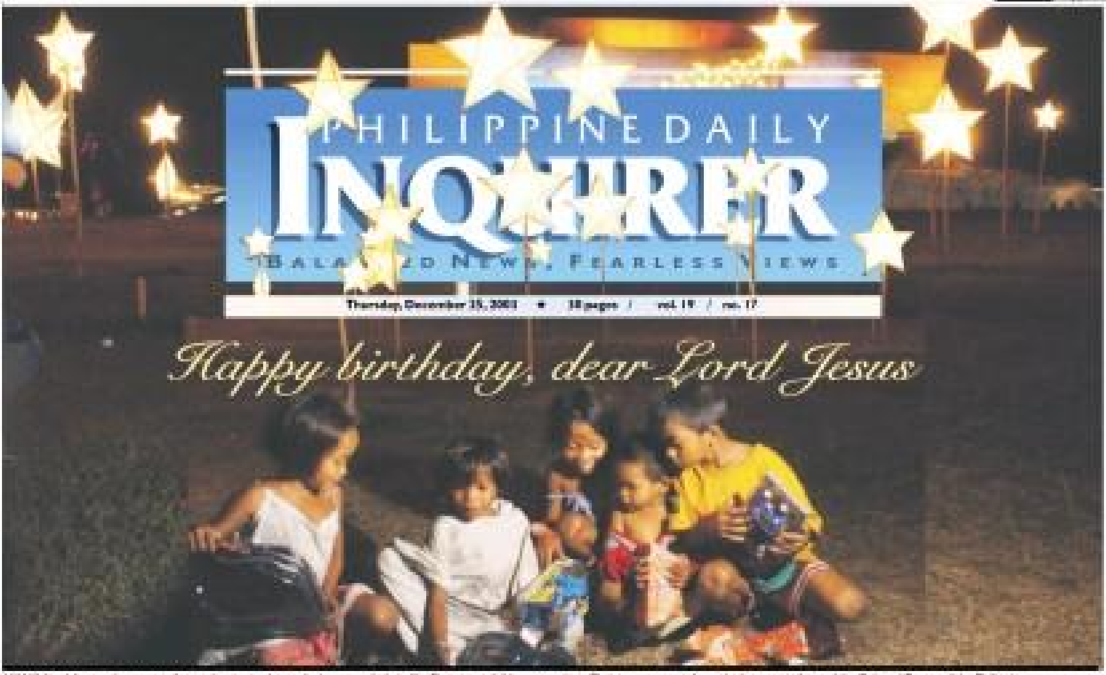
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, December 25, 2003 • 38 pages / vol. 19 / no. 17

Happy birthday, dear Lord Jesus



MANILA celebrates the season of spreading joy to those who have very little in life. Five street children open their Christmas presents from the INQUIRER in front of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Sandiganbayan under fire

Groups lambast ruling on Erap trip

By Carlito Pablo, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Armand N. Nocum

A POLITICAL deal, a double standard for clemency that favors the rich, and a ruling that allows a person charged with capital offense to escape.

These were the reactions of legislators, militant groups and a presidential aspirant to the Sandiganbayan ruling allowing deposed President Joseph Estrada, who is charged with plunder, to leave in the first week of January for the United States for knee surgery.

Estrada may even get a bonus: a visit from President Macapagal-Arroyo before he leaves for the United States. The President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it would not be "far-fetched" if she would drop by to personally check on Estrada.

Among the conditions set by the court for Estrada's travel is that he must be accompanied by four policemen from the Philippines, that he post a P1-million travel bond, and that he can only travel within the United States.

The Sandiganbayan did not provide for this Christmas season for Estrada who is detained in a camp in Rizal.

Because the ruling is not yet final, government and private prosecutors...

SANDIGANBAYAN/A4

Christmas everywhere



A 21-meter Christmas tree is displayed at a shopping mall in Jakarta for the year-end festivities.

A tall Christmas tree decorated with lights stands in downtown Hong Kong as part of festivities in the territory. AP

A 24-meter Christmas tree glows in front of City Hall in downtown Seoul. In the background are the lights decorating Osmeña Park in Davao City. AP

US First Lady Laura Bush presents the Christmas tree in the Blue Room during a preview of the White House holiday decorations in Washington. AP

PR people treat VIPs in hospital

By Volt Contreras

AFTER years of "wining and dining" all sorts of patrons in business, politics and the media, a group of public relations practitioners thought it was time they played generous hosts to a different set of VIPs this Christmas.

The officers of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines decided to cancel its traditional Christmas party and threw one instead for the "Very Important Patients" at the children's ward of the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital (POC) on Tuesday afternoon.

"After all the entertaining, lobbying and networking we've done the whole year, we chose to end it by doing this for the kids," said PRSP president Winston Marbella. "And I can say this is the most satisfying activity we've done."

The groups brought to some brave kids, 14, now bald from chemotherapy and whose battle with bone cancer had forced the am-

PR PEOPLE/A4

From street kid to top policeman

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—He was a typical batang yagit who loathed policemen for chasing him off the streets.

He used to dive off the Cebu harbor for a few centavos thrown into the water by passengers of arriving vessels. If he was not selling ice candy, he was rummaging through trash to look for leftover food or saleable bottles and cans.

Now, Eguerido Pelisan Jr. has become what he used to hate—a policeman. And he is not just an ordinary man with the badge.

Police Officer 3 Pelisan, or Bill to his friends, has found his calling in handling the needs of the about 40 wards at the Community Scouts and Youth Guidance Center (CSYGC) at the North Reclamation Area where he works as the administration and operations officer.

Bill, 35, is the center's pioneering graduate, as he was among the first picked up by police in 1983 when it was set up to provide shelter for children in conflict with law.

FROM STREET/A4

Search continues for missing boat passengers

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Commodore Constancio Jardiniano, chief of Naval Forces West, yesterday said there was no trace of six people who were earlier spotted adrift near the Malaysian waters by an Air Force reconnaissance plane.

The six are believed to have been among the 75 passengers and crew members of the ML Pia-ty that sank in stormy seas off Palawan on Sunday. Twenty of the passengers were rescued on Monday night.

Jardiniano said the Navy had also received unconfirmed reports that 38 passengers and crew members of the ill-fated Pia-ty had been sighted on the shores of Malaysia's Banggey Island off the northern tip of Borneo.

He said five of the six people, who were spotted at 2 p.m. Tuesday clinging to the debris of the wooden-hulled Pia-ty in rough seas near Pearless Shoal, waved to the crew of the OV Bronco plane. One of the six appeared motionless.

The plane dropped water and food to the six, while several Navy and Coast Guard rescue vessels rushed to the site.

Jardiniano said the plane returned to the site on Wednesday morning, but the six were no longer there. Rescue vessels also failed to reach the area because of

SEARCH/A4

Celebrate despite grief, Leyte victims urged

By Joey A. Gabieta and Florence Magallanes
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN FRANCISCO, Southern Leyte—The bereaved people of Barangay Punta should find it in their hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ despite their grief, according to the co-parish priest of this town.

Fr. Joselito Caralsig told the INQUIRER that he understood the feelings of the survivors of the Dec. 19 landslides and flash flood. But he said: "The tragedy is not a reason for the people not to celebrate Christmas. [They] should in fact be grateful that they managed to escape the horrible tragedy."

Parish priest Edmund Bonas aired the same view, saying that despite the tragedy, "Christmas is an occasion that we should always celebrate" because of the Savior's birth.

Bonas was to say Mass at the parish church at 3 p.m. yesterday in memory of the 100 persons who died in the landslides.

CELEBRATE/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Lacson may need new party

MILF asks OIC to set early meet

Metro placed on red alert

RP to restrict US beef imports

Nene: FPJ unstoppable; GMA beyond redemption

Platform

Muslims going for GMA–Datumanong

Sandiganbayan under fire

PR people . . .

'Tis the season to eat, but don't overdo it–DOH

Polls to create more jobs, says labor chief

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, December 25, 2003
Christmas



More int'l aid for victims

Celebrate despite grief, Leyte victims urged



Search continues for missing boat passengers

From street kid to top policeman







The WORLD

US consumers worry over mad cow disease

Mao is management guru



WorldBriefs

Engineers released

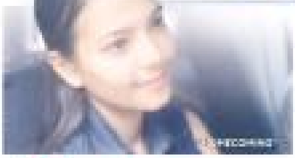
Terror alert up

Malvo gets life

Comedian pardoned

Syphilis outbreak

ENTERTAINMENT

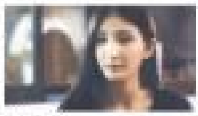


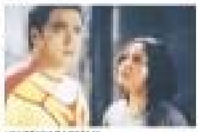
A better crop of films this year


"CRYING LADIES"


"MANO PO 2"


"FILIPINAS"


"MALIKMATA"


"CAPTAIN BARBELL"


"FANTASTIC MAN"

Let's do our share to boost the Metro filmfest

Did You Know...

A better crop...

Viewfinder



Nestor U. Torre

Anjanette can come home now, says BI

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION



Earth and water

EDITORIALS

[illegible]

Wind and fire

[illegible]

The old man and his Christmas lanterns

As I See It

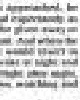


Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Humbug

There's the Rub



Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

Family reunions amid Alert Orange

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Unexpected gifts

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

ET's Christmas crash-landing

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Christmas paradox

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.

Institute on Church and Social Issues

IN THE NEWS



Sen. Edgardo Angara

In the fullness of time

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

The season of Christmas giving

LETTERS

Not IRRI's opinions

Across the NATION

Stealth hovers over Baguio casino launch

Male fire fatality's body remains unclaimed



NATIVE CHRISTMAS



CHECKPOINT

DAR sets inventory of projects for funds

2 Filipinos win Koran reading contest prizes

Ex-peasant leader slain in Laguna town

Swiss sued for offering bribe to cop exec

Doubts linger over cops' claim on war on 'jueteng'

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Christmas house brings joy to poor of Naga City

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

AMID hard times, a fully decorated house along a national road in Naga City not only grabs attention from passers by but also brings joy to poor people, especially children, who hardly feel the spirit of Christmas.

Health services

Tradition



EVERY night, people from Naga City make it a point to pass by Co's house to see the colorful Christmas décor.

A SEASON OF SHARING

Bonding with poor special children

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legaspi City

FOR THE first time in their young lives, Jay Malara, 15, and Lilieth Morcival, 12, both of Daraga, Albay, were able to watch Walt Disney's cartoons, "Little Mermaid" and "Mulan," and the Hollywood blockbuster movie "Batman."



PHYSICALLY and mentally handicapped children spell out the word Christmas.

Disabled kids

Commitment

Christmas with street children

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
Puerto Princesa City

TEN-YEAR-OLD Marcdelwyng has always believed in Santa Claus. He has only one simple wish this Christmas: to go to school.

METRO

FOUR DIGIT

SUERTRES

MEGALOTTO 6/45

Water supply restored





Parade of stars snarls Metro traffic, bumps off TV show

No prison bar can keep this family apart

Funny and not-so-funny text msgs

ON TARGET



METROBRIEFS

Fires in QC

Stabbed over P20

Locals beef up security in Mandaluyong

Yes we're jueteng-free, Camanava cops claim

In jail for the holidays



Ma's Xmas wish for her sick son

Christmases, happy and sad

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Ann Carvajal

SPORTS



[illegible]

Django tops money list

FILIPINO Francisco "Django" Bustamante emerged the richest player in the world billiards pro tour this year with total earnings of $97,725 (P5.4 million).

[illegible]

RP fighter earns right to battle for crown

[illegible]

KL wants SEAG, Asiad merged

[illegible]

RP bets settle for 5 silvers in Para Games

Negrido, Camitoc lead Alabang Invt'l Jungolf winners

Vives shines in Fearless II Martial Arts



Sportswatch

9 nations vying in Samsung Int'l meet

4th Ruperto Cup up Monday at BCC

Non-master chess tilt all set



SEAG heroes receive cash incentives

Happy birthday, Boss Tsip

Spectator



Al S. Mendoza

Sprewell makes fiery return to NY



NEW YORK—Latrell Sprewell scored 31 points during his emotional return to Madison Square Garden, leading the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 98-82 win over the New York Knicks in NBA play on Tuesday.

Hewitt to marry Clijsters



HEWITT



CLIJSTERS

China serious on Olympic cleanup

BUSINESS

Japan firm bags power projects worth P5.6B



Napocor steps up bid to move power plant to Panay Island

Gov't seen tapping bond mart in 2004

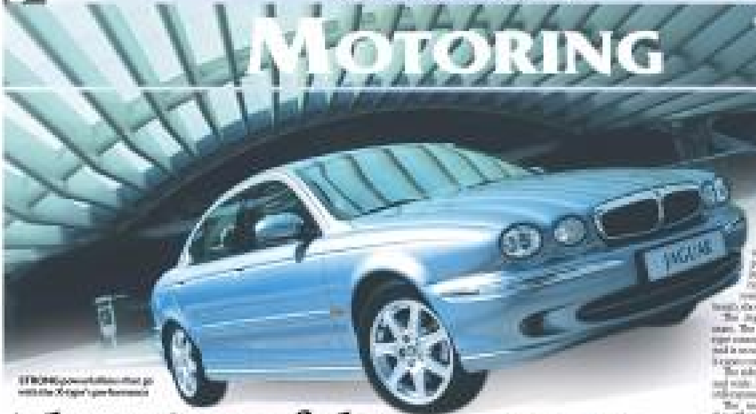


PTT to buy El Paso's stake in Philippine oil venture

Another US firm sets up outsourcing office in RP

Demand for Spanish-speaking call center agents to rise

Motoring



The sting of the Jaguar



> The exclusivity quality doesn't diminish because the price may have gone down but the numbers in production remain the same. Jaguar makers are keeping their animals endangered, indeed

Four eyes

Pouncing leapers

Big push in sales

Perfect match



Isuzu beefs up drive promoting diesel engine



First Di diesel engine

Di Diesel Up! campaign

P20,000 cash prize



LIFESTYLE

ANG PASKO NATIN CONTEST WINNERS

Best homemade Christmas traditions

'Tis one season made memorable by old and new family rituals

Merry Christmas from all of us in Lifestyle!

In this issue



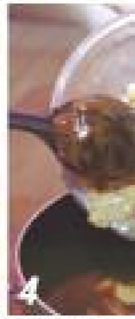














Extra-creamy

Use tomato past
to give a rich,
consistent,
melt-in-your-mo
goodness
to this dish

STEP BY STEP

Media noche fare for good luck in 2004

Tradition says we must fill our table with food in round shapes and sticky 'kakanin.' So here are recipes for pearl balls, 'pichi pichi' and 'cuchinta'

Pearl Balls

Pichi-pichi

Cuchinta

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TUESDAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEDNESDAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
THURSDAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FRIDAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SATURDAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SUNDAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

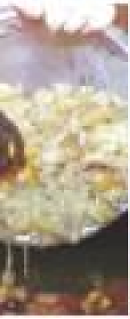
Recipes in a h

Sweet and Sour Taro Chicken





OATMEAL Peanut Butter Bars





STIR well. Cover and leave to simmer for 20 minutes.



ADD salt and pepper to taste. Add chorizo and chickpeas.



ADD red bell pepper. Continue to simmer for 10 minutes.

callos

Ingredients

holiday mood

Oatmeal Peanut Butter Bars

Influx of new feeds worries pet owners

A GROUP that calls itself Responsible Pet Owners has expressed concern over the influx of new pet food in the market. They are worried about the indiscriminate buying of pet foods by the general public. They noted that the nutritional information on labels of these products is difficult for the layman to decipher.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Sybico Ghent



Mad at casino club

Feedback on radio-TV ads

Taxi woes



Design your own cup and win cash prize

LIFESTYLE Tastes


DAD'S Ham from Dad's Restaurant

Holiday smorgasbord

Text by [illegible]
Photos by [illegible]

IN A RECENT one-day food presentation in Alabang Town Center (ATC), 25 kiosks and restaurants proved that by adding colorful dips and relishes or just serving meals in fine china, you can turn any fast food to fab food.

Some of the eye-catching and mouth-watering dishes on display that you'll surely want on your Noche Buena table were the Smoked Prawns and Scallops in a basket from Gloria Maris, Dad's Ham from Dad's Restaurant, Porchetta (roast pig Roman style) from Cibo, Kung Pao Spaghetti from California Pizza Kitchen, and Crab Martini from The Red Crab Seafood and Steaks.

"One of the strongest anchors of ATC is the variety of food we have. All these restaurants are located strategically in different parts of the mall. And in this presentation, we want to acquaint people with the various establishments," said Javier Hernandez, general manager of Alabang Town Center.

Aside from Cibo, California Pizza Kitchen and The Red Crab, three other restaurants from the mall's Corte de las Palmas area presented Christmas-themed meals.

There were [illegible] Angus Beef and Agedashi Tofu from Sakura; [illegible] Prawns and [illegible] Platter from Tequila Joe's; and [illegible] from [illegible].

"Corte de las Palmas is where you can dine al fresco, with [illegible] Spanish plaza setting," said Hernandez.

Representing the cinemas and entertainment areas were familiar meals from familiar restaurants such as the [illegible] Salad and Crispy Belly from [illegible], and Fried Chicken and Special Clubhouse Sandwich from [illegible].

There were also [illegible]

TURN TO C[illegible]


CRAB Martini from The Red Crab


SHAKEY'S New York Pizza



PAELLA from San Mig Pub



CHICKEN Relleno Pizza from Pizza Hut



SAUTÉED Prawns and Scallops in a basket from Gloria Maris

Holiday smorgasbord

From page C1

from Royal Caribbean Jamaican Pasta, lumpia from Tapa King and the new Chicken Relleno Pizza from Pizza Hut.

Treats from coffee shops also sat on the Christmas buffet table. There were paninis and muffins from Coffee Experience, and cookies and cupcakes from Café Breads.

"The restaurants in the theater area are where families or barkadas dine. (They make) the best side trip after a movie or an hour of games at Timezone," said Hernandez.

Flavorful

Other yummy fare at the Christmas food presentation were the flavorful ice shavings with fruit toppings from Ice Monster; Taiwanese pastries from Ha Lin; soft hand-rolled pretzels from Auntie Anne's; Filipino dishes from Bahay Bahay Republic; and classic pizzas from Shakey's.

All located at the Activity Center and Food Choices of the Town Foodcourt, these are the affordable options patronized by yuppies and students.

Joining (Gail) Restaurant to represent the Town Plaza were San Mig Pub and Restaurant, which served Paella; and Cable Car, which provided Focaccia Bread Pizza, Tapa Lumpia and Spring Rolls. There were also homegrown coffee blends from Seattle's Coffee.

"The Town Plaza is where people go for barkada night-outs and gimmicks," noted Hernandez.

Rounding up the Christmas buffet were restaurants from the Theater Drive—Gloria Maris, which also offered Shredded Duck Fruit Salad, and Outback Restaurant, which served Beef Adelaide, Kookaburra Wings and [illegible].

It was an interesting Christmas smorgasbord that enticed passersby of all stripes.

"People think that we only have the AB market here in ATC. But we really have something for everyone," said Hernandez.

'People think that we only have the AB market here in Alabang Town Center. But we really have something for everyone'



SAKURA chef Andrés Castillo



ATC general manager Javier Hernandez with his staff: marketing manager Maricris Bernardino, operations manager Minet Abagon and marketing assistant Christine Enriquez



ROYAL Caribbean Jamaican Pasta in various beef flavors



CANGREJOS de Rizal from The Red Crab



PORCHETTA (roast pig Roman style) from Ciboo



SALSIS Sausage from [illegible]

Tastes LifeStyle



CAFÉ BOLA'S hip red-orange interiors

This café is a 'chick' magnet

By Alexandra Mercado
Contributor

THERE is something about Café Bola that makes it a "chick" magnet.

[illegible]

Review

[illegible]

Comfort menu

[illegible]

Heavy on the rice

[illegible]

[illegible]

World-class Pinoy foods, beverages showcased



FILIPINO food and beverage makers appear to have acquired the capability to be effective players in the international market as indicated by the attendance in the recent Asian Ethnic Food Fest at the World Trade Center.

A bubbly new year



IT'S a yearly tradition to welcome the new year with a bottle of champagne. This year, you have been tasked to host your annual party, and suddenly you realize that not all your friends are into drinking alcoholic beverages. So you take it upon yourself to make each and everyone enjoy the party without letting anyone feel left out.

Add zip to your Christmas



Start 'media noche' with Chinese soup

START your media noche with a serving of any of Campbell's Oriental Treats, authentic Chinese soups to warm you up this chilly season.



This café is a 'chick' . . .

